

think we should be proud of what the Congress has done. We said we wanted to preserve and protect Social Security and Medicare, and we have. We stopped the raid on Social Security that had been going on for decades, and we made the system stronger by passing legislation locking away 100 percent of the Social Security surplus for Social Security; not for any other spending programs.

Republicans said we would eliminate the deficit and pay down the debt, and we have. In fact, over just the past 3 years we have paid down \$360 billion in debt. Over the next 5 years, our tax cuts will provide the average household almost \$2,000 in tax relief, and this includes the \$500 per child tax credit we enacted; and we are just getting started. Let us continue working on behalf of all Americans to protect and preserve Social Security; to provide tax relief; to pay off the Federal debt and to strengthen education.

HIGHER PRICES WILL NOT WASH

(Mr. KNOLLENBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, how much is enough indeed, Mr. Speaker? The Clinton-Gore administration keeps asking for more and more and more from the American people, more and more in the way of money for their liberal special interests; billions and billions of dollars, in fact. But as if that were not bad enough, the Clinton and Gore administration demand to take even more of America's freedoms. They take and they take and they take. Their big government philosophy crowds out room for our freedoms.

Let me just give one timely example from this past month. The Clinton and Gore administration want to take away our freedom to select washing machines, air conditioners, and heat pumps and to force us to pay hundreds of dollars more for products that we refuse to buy. They proposed that rule just last month on October 5, 2000, which would steal that much more of our liberty. How much is enough? When the big hand of the Federal Government opens the door to our homes and invites itself in, it is time to say enough is enough.

GOVERNMENT IN LIMBO

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, here we are in Washington and the situation is that we have passed 13 out of 13 appropriation bills, and we are trying to work with the President of the United States to finalize these bills. This is always the case. It has always been this way. Both sides always claim victory, but in truth Democrats and Republicans come together because the

American people want something done, but now we are unable to do that. The first time in history the Congress cannot adjourn. And why can it not adjourn? Because the President, as I speak, is in California today campaigning. Now, if he was in the Middle East avoiding war, hey, I am with him all the way. If he was in North Korea, if he was in Haiti or something, we are with him all the way. He is in California. Congress is here in Washington, D.C. The Democrat leader, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), is home in St. Louis campaigning. Because of this, taxpayers have a government that is somewhat in limbo. When we get the new President, Mr. Bush, I hope he will bring both sides together because that is what we need.

WE WILL NOT GIVE IN

(Mr. GUTKNECHT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, the question that everybody is trying to wrestle with is why are we still here?

Let me, first of all, say everyone is entitled to their own opinion. They are not entitled to their own facts. Let me just offer my opinion as to why we are still here. It really does come down to some fairly simple questions, and the first one is how much is enough? Now, the Committee on the Budget worked out with the Senate earlier this year a budget agreement that said we could legitimately meet the needs of the Federal Government for about \$1.9 trillion. The President of the United States wants more, and no matter how much more we give him he keeps moving the bar. Even today we do not know how much the President really wants to spend, but it is not just about spending. The President thought that in our eagerness to get home and campaign that we would roll, we would roll over and he would get what he wanted on ergonomics, on blanket amnesty for illegal aliens.

Know what? He was wrong. I am so proud of the House of Representatives and our leadership because we said no. We are not going to give in to even more spending. We are not going to give in to blanket amnesty for illegal aliens, and we are not going to give in to a bad ergonomics policy that hurts small business.

FORKED TONGUE TALK

(Mr. FARR of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I was not going to speak tonight but I cannot believe what I am hearing, this forked tongue talk. First we have the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY) saying we are going to come down here tomorrow and we are going to pass a bill and we have enough people to do

that. And then he gets up and says nothing can happen in Washington because the President is moving around the country. Thank God the President is moving around the country. Thank God over 100 Members of Congress are not here tonight.

Know where they are? They are out where the American people want Members of Congress to be on the eve of an election. They want to be face-to-face with the people they are going to vote with.

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Thank God the President is moving around the country. This is a sham what is going on here. This is an attempt to try to keep some endangered species.

Mr. Speaker, I have heard word on the Republican side of the aisle that some of their Members are saying it is a lot safer for them to be here because they are running such tough races, and if they have to get out there and respond to the challenger's opposition, they could not make it, they are not going to get elected. What a sham.

The Republicans control this place, all the rules, all the committees, all the decisions, all the votes. The Republicans have the majority. They can get in here and out of here as fast as they want to. So just because the President is traveling around the country; as commander in chief he can travel all over the world and do American business. Thank God he is not in Washington, and we should not be in Washington, either.

EXTRAORDINARY HAPPENINGS ON THE HILL

(Mr. WALDEN of Oregon asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, it is extraordinary tonight to listen to this, because there are 73 Democrats missing. The Democrat leader is missing. It is a little hard to negotiate when they are not in town. Our leadership is here and we are here.

But more importantly for the American people to understand, for 30 years around this place, whenever they wanted to spend more money than they had, the Democrats would just take the money out of the Social Security fund and leave an IOU behind.

We changed that in this Congress. We changed that. We created the lockbox that safeguards Social Security and Medicare. We also put money into paying down debt. There has been \$350 billion paid down in the last 3 years. We hope to pay down another \$240 billion in this budget alone. That is why we are standing here ready to fight, because we want to pay down debt, not just grow the government. We want to do meaningful tax relief, not just add to the burden of working Americans.

Tomorrow, we are going to do something extraordinary for the State of